Promoting the use of solar energy

1461. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of electricity in the county ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is unchecked use of electrical appliances in Government buildings and in big industrial units ;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held in such cases and if so, the action taken in the matter ;

(d) whether Govt. propose to promote the use of solar energy ; and

(e) if so, the details of steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir, The position for the current year from April, 1993 to January, 1994 is as follows :

Requirement	266947 Million Units Net
Availability .	247095 Million units Net
Shortage .	19852 Million Units Net
Percentage .	7.4%

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such instances have come to notice and as such no enquiry has been held.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have prepared plans for harnessing solar energy through both solar thermal & solar photovoltaic routes. During the 8th Plan, it is envisaged to take up installation of 11 lakh square metre of solar thermal collector area, 7 lakh nos. solar cookers, solars photovoltaic systems aggregating to 25 MW and a solar thermal power plant of 30 MW capacity under the new "Strategy & Action Plan" prepared by the Ministry. The steps aken include promotional policies, package of incentives, soft loans for manufacturers and users, information dissemination as well as manpower development.

Solar thermal power plant at Gaya

1462. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a Solar Thermal Power Plant at Gaya in Bihar ;

(b) whether Government had received a project report in the matter from the Bihar Govt. in 1989 ; and

(c) if so, the details of the project and the place where it is proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON 'CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Feasibility report for 2×30 MW solar thermal power plants had been received from Bihar State Electricity Board in 1989. BSEB had proposed setting up of these solar thermal power plants based on line focussing solar collector technology at Fatehpur, about 17 km. from Gaya town. Generation of power through Solar Thermal-Route is a new technology and the techno-economic viability of such power plants is first being looked into, in view of the high capital investment involved.

Scheme for wind energy estates

1463. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up "Wind Energy Estates";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate cost or investment planned therefor; and

(d) the total outlay planned by the Government on this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has asked State Governments to consider formation of Joint Sector Companies for establishment of wind energy estates with private sector, State Government and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) as shareholders. The Joint Sector Companies would take up turn key planning, installation, operation and maintenance of individual wind turbines at a wind energy estate on behalf of small entrepreneurs/investors.